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APPLICATION NO	FILED DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/618,686	07/15/2003	Takeo Tsutsumi	0842-0483P	5519
2592	7590	06/03/2004		
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH			EXAMINER	
PO BOX 747			WALLS, DIONNE A	
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1731	

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/818,886	TSUTSUMI ET AL	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Dionne A. Walls	1731		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Office Action Summary

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extension of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(e). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will EXPIRE SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All Some * None of.

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited (PTO-92) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No.(s)/Mail Date _____
 Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/05) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
Refer to instructions. Other.

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Case et al (US. Pat. No. 6,000,404).

Case et al discloses a smoking article made with cigarette paper comprising a total filler content which can be as low as 4% (corresponding to the claimed "0 to 6% by weight of a loading material"), and can have a weight of 30 grams per square meter, little or no burn agent and a permeability of about 10 CORESTA or less (see col. 1, lines 25-55; col. 2, lines 58-60; col. 3, and claim 1). While Case et al may not specifically state that the cigarette wrapping paper has a thermal conductivity of $0.5 \text{ W-K}^{-1}\text{-m}^{-1}$, it follows that such cigarette paper inherently displays this characteristic. In the alternative, the wrapper of Case et al obviously has this property since it also possesses

the same properties that are exhibited in the preferred wrapper disclosed in the instant specification, on Table 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Drewett et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,105,835).

Drewett discloses a smoking article having a rod of smoking material 12 wrapped in a wrapper 14, said wrapper being constructed of a material that has high conductivity/heat capacity (corresponding to the claimed "thermal conductivity"). While Drewett et al may not specifically state that said conductivity is $0.5 \text{ W-K}^{-1}\text{-m}^{-1}$ or more, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the to optimize the thermal conductivity so that it would be as high as possible, in order to most effectively assist in achieving rapid extinguishing of the cigarette (as taught in Drewett et al), and in doing so would, after routine experimentation, arrive at the claimed range of heat conductivity.

6. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 42 02 750 (English Abstract).

The English abstract of DE 42 02 750 discloses a self-extinguishing cigarette which is made from tobacco (6), having an outer-most wrapper (7) which is of high

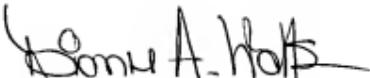
thermal conductivity. While there may be no articulation with the respect to the actual value of said conductivity, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to optimize the thermal conductivity so as to enable efficient and quick extinguishing of the cigarette – which is the goal of DE 42 02 750 – and in doing so would, after routine experimentation, arrive at the claimed range of heat conductivity.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dionne A. Walls whose telephone number is (571) 272-1195. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 7AM - 4:30PM (Every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven P. Griffin can be reached on (571) 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dionne A. Walls
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731

May 26, 2004